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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Lee Anne Kowalski	Examiner:	William D. Hutton, Jr.
Serial No.:	09/928,599	Group Art Unit:	2179
Filed:	August 13, 2001	Docket:	SVL920010049US1
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING AND DISTINGUISHING WORDS CONTAINED WITHIN AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE IN ORDER TO CONVEY SIGNIFICANCE		

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, George H. Gates, declare as follows:

1. I am a registered patent attorney, as well as a partner in the law firm of Gates & Cooper LLP. Gates & Cooper LLP represents the assignee in the above-identified patent application.

2. I drafted and filed the above-identified patent application on behalf of the assignee.

3. I received the "Disclosure" document and instructions to draft and file the above-identified patent application from the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. on May 18, 2001.

4. According to my file wrapper for the above-identified patent application, and the server directory where electronic documents for the application are stored, I began drafting the above-identified patent application on May 29, 2001, and worked continuously on the above-identified patent application until its filing on August 13, 2001.

5. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: 2/27/2006

Signed: /G.H.G/
Name: George H. Gates

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Lee Anne Kowalski, declare as follows:

1. I am the inventor of the subject matter described and claimed in the patent application identified above.

2. Prior to June 21, 2000, I conceived the invention in the United States of America as evidenced by the following:

(a) I conceived the invention described in the above-identified patent application in this country prior to June 21, 2000, as evidenced by the "Disclosure" document attached hereto as an exhibit.

(b) The "Disclosure" document describes my invention, and fully supports the claims in the above-identified patent application. Specifically, the "Disclosure" document describes a computer-implemented method for identifying and distinguishing words contained within an electronic message, by comparing message terms in an electronic message to significant terms stored by the computer in an online registry to identify any of the message terms in the electronic message that match the significant terms stored in the online registry, and then making alterations to the electronic message to identify the matched message terms and to indicate their significance to a reader.

(c) The "Disclosure" document was created and submitted to the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. prior to June 21, 2000 for the purposes of drafting and filing the above-identified patent application. Although the dates on the "Disclosure" document are redacted, the following dates are prior to June 21, 2000:

(i) on page 1, the "Created On" date, which is the date I created the "Disclosure" document,

(ii) on page 1, the "Submitted Date" date, which is the date I submitted the "Disclosure" document to the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept.,

(iii) on page 2, the date answering "*Question 1 On what date was the invention workable,"

(iv) on page 5, the date that "|t|his evaluation was entered ..." under "Evaluation," which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. entered the decision by the Patent Evaluation team regarding whether the "Disclosure" document should be filed as a patent application,

(v) on page 5, the "Date rated" under "Team Evaluation," which is the date that the Patent Evaluation team rated the "Disclosure" document suitable for a "search" prior to filing as a patent application, and

(vi) on page 5, the "Date sent" under "Search Information," which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. sent instructions to a searcher for a patentability search for the invention described in the "Disclosure" document.

3. Reduction to practice proceeded on a continuous basis from prior to June 21, 2000, eventually culminating in the filing of the above-identified United States Utility Patent Application No. 09/928,599 on August 13, 2001.

(a) The "Disclosure" document was submitted to the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. prior to June 21, 2000 for the purposes of drafting and filing the above-identified patent application.

(b) Although the dates on the "Disclosure" document are redacted, the following dates are prior to June 21, 2000:

(i) on page 1, the "Created On" date, which is the date I created the "Disclosure" document,

(ii) on page 1, the "Submitted Date" date, which is the date I submitted the "Disclosure" document to the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept.,

(iii) on page 2, the date answering "*Question 1 On what date was the invention workable,"

(iv) on page 5, the date that "[t]his evaluation was entered ..." under "Evaluation," which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. entered the decision by the Patent Evaluation team regarding whether the "Disclosure" document should be filed as a patent application,

(v) on page 5, the "Date rated" under "Team Evaluation," which is the date that the Patent Evaluation team rated the "Disclosure" document suitable for a "search" prior to filing as a patent application, and

(vi) on page 5, the "Date sent" under "Search Information," which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. sent instructions to a searcher for a patentability search for the invention described in the "Disclosure" document.

(c) From the "Disclosure" document, the following dates are after June 21, 2000:

(i) on page 5, the "Date of Final Decision" date is May 8, 2001, which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. rendered their decision to proceed with the filing of a patent application for the invention described in the "Disclosure" document, and

(ii) on page 5, the "Planned Filing Date" is August 15, 2001, which is the date that the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. planned to file the patent application for the invention described in the "Disclosure" document.

(d) The period between the "Date rated" under "Team Evaluation" and the "Date of Final Decision" date included a patentability search, and a filing determination by the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept., which resulted in a decision by the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. to proceed with the drafting and filing of the above-identified patent application.

(c) The accompanying Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 by George H. Gates states that he received the "Disclosure" document and instructions to draft and file the above-identified patent application from the IBM Intellectual Property Law Dept. on May 18, 2001, which culminated in the filing of the above-identified patent application on August 13, 2001.

4. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: Feb 17, 2006

Signed: LeAnne Kowalski

Name: Lee Anne Kowalski

[redacted]



Disclosure [redacted]

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By: Lee Anne Kowalski **Created On:** [redacted]
Last Modified By: [redacted] **Last Modified On:** [redacted]

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form.

***Title of disclosure (in English)**

A method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order to convey significance

Summary

Status	Final Decision (File)
Docket Family	[redacted]
Processing Location	SVL
Functional Area	DB2 FOR UDB
Attorney/Patent Professional	Ingrid Foerster/Santa Teresa/IBM
IDT Team	[redacted]
Submitted Date	[redacted]
Owning Division	
Incentive Program	
Lab	
Technology Code	
PVT Score	No PVT score has been calculated.To calculate a PVT score, press the 'Calculate' button.

Inventors with a Blue Pages entry

Inventors: Lee Anne Kowalski/Santa Teresa/IBM

Inventor Name	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Inventor Phone	Manager Name
> Kowalski, Lee Anne	301598	76/J35A	N/A	McQuillan, Therese

> denotes primary contact

Inventors without a Blue Pages entry

IDT Selection

Select Functional Area

IDT Team: [redacted]s

Attorney/Patent Professional:
Ingrid Foerster/Santa Teresa/IBM

[redacted] A method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order - continued

Response Due to IP&L [redacted]

***Main Idea**
To view the main idea for this disclosure, click on this doclink ---> (If you are prompted to enter a server name, please enter D01DB016)

***Critical Questions (Questions 1-9 must be answered in English)**

***Question 1**
On what date was the invention workable? [redacted] **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

***Question 2**
Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to anyone outside IBM? ○ Yes ● No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
Publication/Patent:
Date Published or Issued:

Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this invention? ● Yes ○ No

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.
[redacted]

***Question 3**
Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale, or included in a proposal? ○ Yes ● No

Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal planned? ○ Yes ● No

If Yes, identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale, announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be made.
Product:
Version/Release:
Code Name:
Date:
To Whom:
If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.

***Question 4**
Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of non-IBMers? ○ Yes ● No

If yes, give a date. **Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY**

[redacted]

[redacted] A method and syste... for easily identifying and distinguishing words conta...ed within an e-mail message in order - continued

***Question 5**
Have you ever discussed your invention with others not employed at IBM?
If yes, identify individuals and date discussed. Fill in the text area with the following information. the names of the individuals, the employer, date discussed, under CDA, and CDA #.

○ Yes
● No

***Question 6**
Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?

If Yes, enter the contract number

○ Yes
● No
○ Not sure

***Question 7**
Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?
If **Yes**, enter the following:

Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer
Contract ID number
Relationship contact name
Relationship contact E-mail
Relationship contact phone

○ Yes
● No
○ Not Sure

***Question 8**
Have you, or any of the other inventors, submitted this same invention disclosure or similar invention disclosure previously?
If Yes, please provide disclosure number below:

○ Yes
● No

***Question 9**
Are you, or any of the other inventors, aware of any related inventions disclosures submitted by anyone in IBM previously?
If Yes, please provide the docket or disclosure number or any other identifying information below:

○ Yes
○ No

Question 10
What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? *Check all that apply.*

PAGE 23/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

[redacted] method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order - continued

- [] Manufacturers of enterprise servers
- [] Manufacturers of entry servers
- [] Manufacturers of workstations
- [] Manufacturers of PC's
- [] Non-computer manufacturers
- [x] Developers of operating systems
- [x] Developers of networking software
- [x] Developers of application software
- [x] Integrated solution providers
- [x] Service providers
- [] Other (Please specify below)

Question 11
If the invention relates to a product or service that is outside the scope of your business unit, please recommend IBM business unit(s), IBM location(s) or individual(s) within IBM that you think would provide a good evaluation of your invention:

Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evalua
(The Patent Value tool can be used by the inventor(s) to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)
No PVT score has been calculated. To calculate a PVT score, press the 'Calculate' button.

Market
What is the anticipated annual market size (in dollars) that will be captured by your invention?

CLAIMS
Question 1 - How new is the technical field?

Question 2 - How central is the invention to the product(s) which might be expected to contain the invention?

Question 3 - What is the scope of the claim?

PORTFOLIO NEED
What are the portfolio needs in the area of your invention?

EXPLOITATION & ENFORCEMENT
Question 1 - How easily can the use of the invention by a competitor be detected?

Question 2 - How easily can the use of the invention be avoided by a competitor?

BUSINESS VALUE
Question 1 - What percentage of the companies producing products in the field of this invention might use this invention?

Question 2 - What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Alliance Activity between IBM and

PAGE 24/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

[redacted] A method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order - continued

other companies?

Question 3 - What is the value of this patent to current or anticipated Technology Transfer Activity between IBM and other companies?

Question 4 - Does it result in prestige to IBM?

Evaluation

This evaluation was entered by **Jeanette Durbin/Santa Teresa/IBM** on [redacted]

Team Evaluation

What is the team's evaluation of this disclosure? Search

Date rated [redacted]

Evaluation Comments

Final Evaluation History:	Who made the final evaluation:	Final evaluation date:
Search	Jeanette Durbin/Santa Teresa/IBM	[redacted]

Search Information

Date sent: [redacted] *Target completion date [redacted] Search Results Received date:

Who was the search sent to (This area is to designate a Local Searcher name or WAIPL):

*Search Type: ☒ Patentability ☐ Clearance ☐ Validity ☐ State of Art

*Features to be searched: Please see disclosure

Search Office Information

Target completion date: ☐ Search has been delayed Ship/Return date: 06/20/2000

Search Conducted By Moore

Comments

Final Decision

This decision was entered by **Jeanette Durbin/Santa Teresa/IBM** on [redacted]

Decision: File Status: N/A

PPM Area: 600 - Software related services Attorney Rating: 2

Date of Final Decision [redacted]

Additional filing information

Planned Filing date: [redacted]

Filing comments:

Dates have been entered in the format MM/DD/YYYY

Additional decision comments

Final Decison History

[redacted]

PAGE 25/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26



Main Idea for Disclosure [redacted]

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Archived On: [redacted]

Title of disclosure (in English)

A method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order to convey significance

Idea of disclosure

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

The present invention is a method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order to convey significance to the recipient of the message. The present invention relates to creating and reading e-mail messages.

Background and the problem:

Currently, e-mail users receive upwards of 25 to 50 e-mail messages per day, especially a) those using e-mail in the work place and b) those e-mail users who are considered critical to a project or team. Many of those messages are addressed to more than one individual; that is, the author sends the exact same message to more than one recipient at the same time. In many situations, the author intends that certain parts of the message body are to be considered more significant or important by some of the recipients than they are for the others. Take for example, an author who sends a message to ten people (ten people on the To: line of the message) to notify them all of the existence of a certain problem, as well as ask specific questions of two of them and assign actions ("to dos") to two others. The problem is that all ten of the recipients must take the time to read through the entire message to see which areas are important to them, even if only a small section is applicable to them. Without reading the entire message, each recipient cannot easily see which areas they need to pay attention to and which are not important to them. In their haste to catch up on reading many e-mail messages each day, they can easily overlook a question or action that the sender of the message wrote in the message specifically for them and cause delays in progress of the situation.

Accordingly, what is needed is a system and method within e-mail programs that will minimize the time required to read e-mail messages by allowing certain words that are contained within the e-mail message to be quickly and easily identified and distinguished within the e-mail message from the rest of the words in the message. The system and method can be available at the time the message is created by the author or at the time the message is read by the recipient, and the words are ones that either the author or recipient can determined should convey significance.

Advantages of using the invention

Authors of e-mail messages can easily find terms in their messages for which they want to call attention to when read by the recipients and distinguish those terms so that they are readily visible to those particular recipients. This reduces the likelihood of a recipient overlooking something in the message that the author wants them to read.

Individual recipients of the e-mail messages can easily find those terms in the message that are important to each of them. This reduces the time each person spends reading their e-mail, as they can scan each message and easily find the pieces that are important to them.

[redacted] method and system for easily identifying and distinguishing words contained within an e-mail message in order - continued

[redacted]

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings
Enter any additional information relating to this disclosure below:

(Form Revised 12/17/97)

PAGE 27/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage.(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?
Definitions of terms used herein:

"significant": Herein, significant means those words (which includes proper names, or words invented by the user of the invention) which the user considers would be important to read if they are contained that user's e-mail messages. For example, a manager would consider the names of his employees to be significant for e-mail messages that he sends or receives.

"distinct" and "distinguished": Herein, a term contained in an e-mail message is distinct if it has a quality that makes it stand out from the other terms in the e-mail message, and it is said to be distinguished from the rest of the text. For example, if most of the text in an e-mail message is in normal font and some terms are in **bold** font, those terms that are in bold font are "distinct" or "distinguished" from the rest of the text. Ways in which terms can be made distinct include but are not limited to: different font, different color, having an image displayed next to them.

High level description

To address the requirements described above, the present invention discloses a method that includes: collecting significant terms, locating those terms inside an e-mail message, and, within the message itself, distinguishing them from the other "non-significant" terms so that they can be quickly and easily identified. With this method:

1) E-mail authors define a set of terms (which can be words, proper names, invented words) that they want to be registered as significant terms. When finished composing an e-mail message, the authors invoke the invention which scans the e-mail message and locates the registered terms in the body of the message. For each occurrence of a registered term, the invention asks the author whether it should make that occurrence to appear distinct within the message.

and

2) E-mail recipients define a set of terms (which can be words, proper names, invented words) that they want to be registered as significant terms. When they open an e-mail message to be read, the recipients invoke the invention which scans the e-mail message, locates the registered terms in the body of the message, and makes the occurrences appear distinct within the message.

Flowchart
The following are flow charts illustrating preferred embodiments of the method described above, one for use by an e-mail author and the other for use by an e-mail recipient:

Figure 1, for e-mail author

Main idea for disclosure [redacted] continued

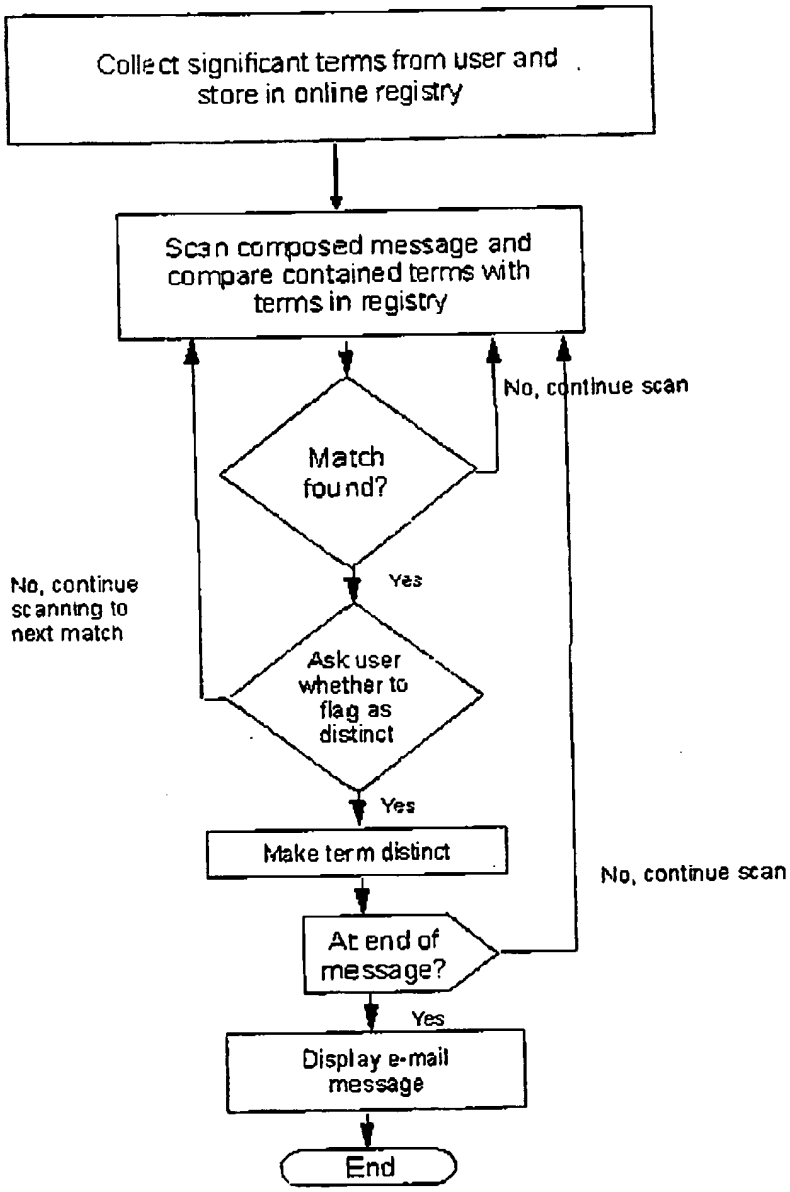
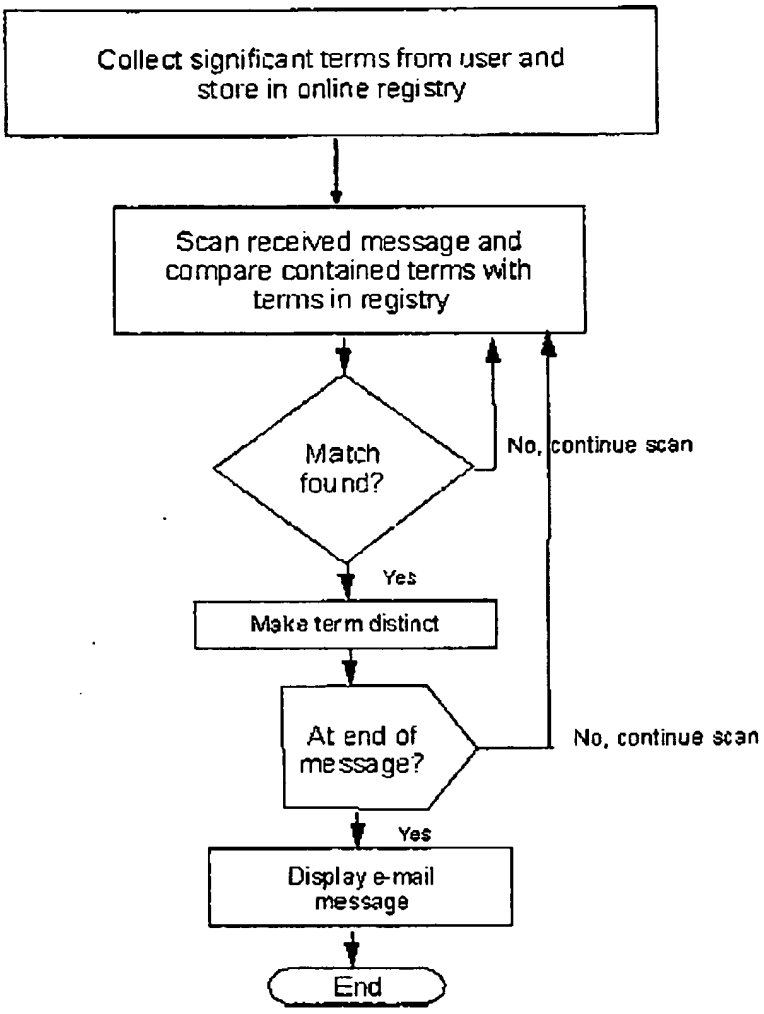


Figure 2, for e-mail recipient:

Main idea for disclosure [redacted] - continued



[redacted]
PAGE 30/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

Possible embodiments/applications

Here are some examples of how I would use the invention in a product:

Example 1: Embodiments used by Authors of e-mail messages
In the Lotus Notes e-mail product, provide an option off of the **Edit** menu named: "Collect key names/terms". This option would open a dialog where the user can select, type in, or otherwise specify terms of importance/significance; for example:

- Names of co-workers (could import these from the user's personal address book)
- Key product terms and names ("XYZ product", "Install Team", "Human Resources", etc.)
- Key words used in user's particular field ("XML", "HTML", etc.)

When the user is done in this dialog, a registry of these terms is built and kept on the user's machine.

Provide an option off of the **Edit** menu named: "Flag key names/terms". This option would be available when the user is composing a new e-mail message. This option would open a dialog similar to the spell-check window where the user can indicate that the embodiment of the invention should go through the e-mail message and flag in turn any term that matches any of the key names/terms that are in the registry collected earlier, or flag any names of people in the To: list that also appear in the body of the message. When a key term is flagged, the user has the option in the dialog of specifying how to indicate that the term is significant; for example, make the term be a different font, make the term be a different color, add an image next to the term, attach a sound file on the term.

At the end of the process, the result is an e-mail message that has terms that are in different fonts and colors that signify to the recipients those places that they should pay attention to. Key names from the To: list are flagged in bright **bold red** at places where they have actions to do; different colors for some people; bold font for **status, install** and **build**. Below, the author choose not to make bold every occurrence of "install" and "build"; just the ones where he thought it would make a difference:

To: Eva Jones, Alan Harmon, Elizabeth Grayson, John Hayes
From: Clark Kent
Subject: To-Dos and brainstorming

- Please send me **status** on the items below by 11:00, 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 tomorrow by e-mail Please include defect number and what happened with it. I'm leaving at 10:30, after 2 meetings and won't have time to stop by and get status. Call me for emergencies.
- We need to have people on call this weekend; please work something out between you; someone will need to check throughout the weekend to make sure further defects are covered and closed.

Elizabeth and **Eva**: using the Thursday night build, can you test the following defects: 134509, 116916, 116510

Eva: Verify old defects, close. Check with John Hayes which ones were already verified (116916, 116927 were new ones yesterday). Also test fix for 115236 (will need to be in weekend **build**).

John: Check for new defects, verify, and necessary changes to Eva for fixes. Finish defect 116508.

Alan: Finish defects with Solaris

Later, I think we should discuss this process, in light of the new function updating and roles involved. Perhaps we should really have an **install** rep as well as a **build** rep, since we do have a somewhat different perspective on many issues. The install team usually gets hooked in at the end of the cycle, while

PAGE 31/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

the build team is there from the start. A lot of these problems seem to be related to install.

There may even be other strategically positioned experts who could also help.

Thanks!
Clark

Example 2
Same as above, only this time the author didn't go through with the tool. Instead, at the recipient's end, the recipient collects terms that he or she deems important. Using the above example, if the recipient is Elizabeth, she might just want to see if her name is in the message. She'd see the above incoming message flagged like this (if the author hadn't put highlighting in it):

To: Eva Jones, Alan Harmon, Elizabeth Grayson, John Hayes
From: Clark Kent
Subject: To-Dos and brainstorming

- Please send me status on the items below by 11:00, 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 tomorrow by e-mail Please include defect number and what happened with it. I'm leaving at 10:30, after 2 meetings and won't have time to stop by and get status. Call me for emergencies.
- We need to have people on call this weekend; please work something out between you; someone will need to check throughout the weekend to make sure further defects are covered and closed.

Elizabeth and Eva: using the Thursday night build, can you test the following defects: 134509, 116916, 116510

Eva: Verify old defects, close. Check with John Hayes which ones were already verified (116916, 116927 were new ones yesterday). Also test fix for 115236 (will need to be in weekend build).

John: Check for new defects, verify, and necessary changes to Eva for fixes. Finish defect 116508.

Alan: Finish defects with Solaris

Later, I think we should discuss this process, in light of the new function updating and roles involved. Perhaps we should really have an install rep as well as a build rep, since we do have a somewhat different perspective on many issues. The install team usually gets hooked in at the end of the cycle, while the build team is there from the start. A lot of these problems seem to be related to install.

There may even be other strategically positioned experts who could also help.

Thanks!
Clark

So, when Elizabeth opens the e-mail message, her eye would be drawn to the line that begins with her name immediately, and she can read that part first. This ensures that it gets her attention.

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?
I personally try to solve this problem of by making my e-mail messages easy for my recipients to scan by hand. I type the names of people next to the sections or questions in the e-mail message that I want them to especially pay attention to, and then highlighting the names (using different fonts or colors) to call attention to those sections; or by highlighting in color or bold font the sentences or questions that I don't

PAGE 32/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

want to be missed. The disadvantage to this method is that I have to spend time going to each occurrence within the message, selecting the name or words at each occurrence, and then changing the font or color to make it stand out. This runs the risk of overlooking an occurrence that should be highlighted, especially in a really long e-mail note. See this example:

To: Ellen, Eric, Brian, David
From: Elizabeth
Subject: Question about translation practices

Hi team,

I have a question for you that came from another team. The question is if we use a tool that doesn't generate table of contents automatically, how do the translators "sync up" the translation of the headings? Is there a step in the process where they compare to make sure they've translated the same English heading text into the same language text? **Ellen or Eric**, do you know how they handle this scenario?

David, from an accuracy/clarity/retrievability standpoint, I always assume that it's in the best interest of the users that the text matches, so that they are ensured that they have jumped to the correct corresponding panel. The example quoted was "Choosing a controller" instead of "Selecting a controller" in the heading of the panel it links to. What are your thoughts on this issue? If you think it's something that could cause a lot of customer problems, then we might need to put a process in place to ensure that they always match exactly. Do you know which team could handle this, Standards or Procedures? Could you call a meeting with the appropriate team to discuss it?

Thanks!
Elizabeth

In the above case, the author has to type the whole message, then go back and choose various fonts and colors and select the text to highlight. The advantages of the invention method over the manual alternative are that this process is made faster and easier to perform. In an embodiment of the invention, the author would only have to type their original message, hit a button, and the tool would pick out the names and, depending on the particular embodiment, could go ahead and make all the names in bold font.

In addition, another advantage with this invention is that e-mail recipients could specify key words that they want to be on the look-out for and have them identified in the e-mail messages that they receive when they open the messages to read them, instead of relying on the author having specified them when the author sent the message. So that, if the author forgets to highlight the name of a recipient in the body of the e-mail message, the recipient could turn on the invention to look for and highlight their name or certain proper names or words that they've specified in a personal "dictionary" and automatically see those words easily.

For example, suppose the above message is sent to Eric, Ellen, Brian, and Dave and the author forgot to run the embodiment of the invention to flag their names:

To: Ellen, Eric, Brian, David
From: Elizabeth
Subject: Question about translation practices

Hi team,

Main idea for disclosure [redacted] - continued

I have a question for you that came from another team. The question is if we use a tool that doesn't generate table of contents automatically, how do the translators "sync up" the translation of the headings? Is there a step in the process where they compare to make sure they've translated the same English heading text into the same language text? Ellen or Eric, do you know how they handle this scenario?

David, from an accuracy/clarity/retrievability standpoint, I always assume that it's in the best interest of the users that the text matches, so that they are ensured that they have jumped to the correct corresponding panel. The example quoted was "Choosing a controller" instead of "Selecting a controller" in the heading of the panel it links to. What are your thoughts on this issue? If you think it's something that could cause a lot of customer problems, then we might need to put a process in place to ensure that they always match exactly. Do you know which team could handle this, Standards or Procedures? Could you call a meeting with the appropriate team to discuss it?

Thanks!
Elizabeth

David is the head of the Standards team. With an embodiment of this invention in his e-mail program, he could have registered a set of key words that includes his name ("David"), and the terms "meeting" and "Standards", so that he can easily see his name in any messages that come in and whether there might be an issue for him or his team and for meetings. So, when the message arrives and he opens it, the words "meeting", "Standards" and "David" will be highlighted and he can see them easily with the items that are important for him and his team:

To: Ellen, Eric, Brian, David
From: Elizabeth
Subject: Question about translation practices

Hi team,

I have a question for you that came from another team. The question is if we use a tool that doesn't generate table of contents automatically, how do the translators "sync up" the translation of the headings? Is there a step in the process where they compare to make sure they've translated the same English heading text into the same language text? Ellen or Eric, do you know how they handle this scenario?

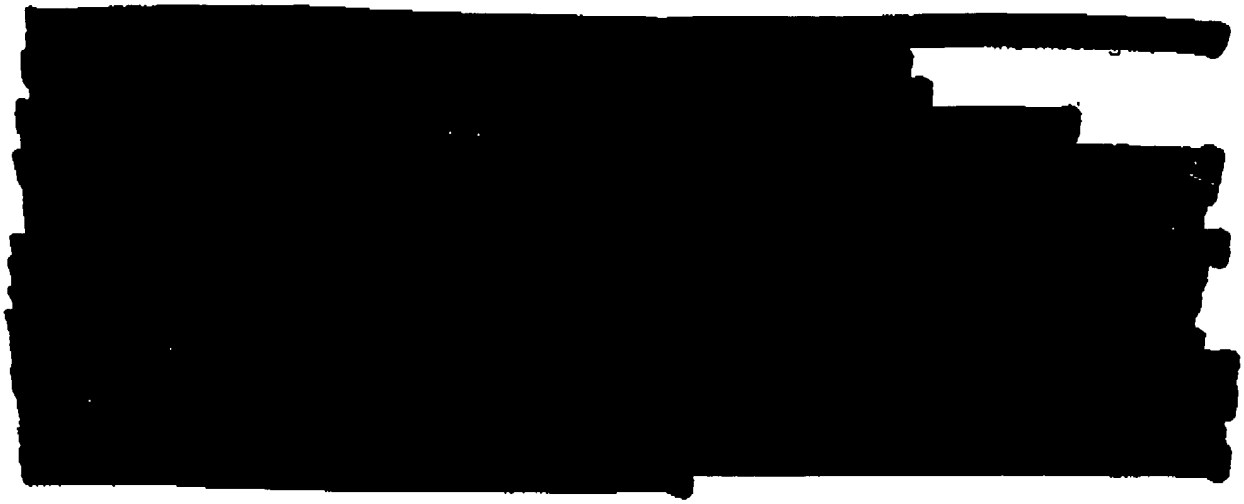
David, from an accuracy/clarity/retrievability standpoint, I always assume that it's in the best interest of the users that the text matches, so that they are ensured that they have jumped to the correct corresponding panel. The example quoted was "Choosing a controller" instead of "Selecting a controller" in the heading of the panel it links to. What are your thoughts on this issue? If you think it's something that could cause a lot of customer problems, then we might need to put a process in place to ensure that they always match exactly. Do you know which team could handle this, Standards or Procedures? Could you call a meeting with the appropriate team to discuss it?

Thanks!
Elizabeth

[redacted]

[redacted]

Main idea for disclosur[redacted]continued



Possible related art

The existing concept that I believe is most related is that of a spell-checker in an e-mail program. A typical use of a spell-checker is:

1. Author composes the message
2. Author runs spell-check tool
3. Spell-check compares terms in the message against an online registry of terms (the dictionary)
4. One at a time, flags those terms that the spell-check deems important to flag to the user (in this situation, any possibly mis-spelled terms)
5. At each time an occurrence is flagged, gives the user an opportunity to ignore or change the flagged terms
6. At finish, author sends message

My invention extends this concept of comparing terms contained in an authored message to a registry of terms, flagging those of "interest", and giving the author an opportunity to change them by extending it in a new way to solve the problem described above--in an embodiment of my invention:

1. Author composes the message
2. Author runs a tool that is the embodiment of my invention
3. The tool compares terms in the message against an online registry of terms (for example, names of people that the author has registered, names of people in the To: list of the current message, proper names of things in the author's work place, etc.) that the author has created
4. One at a time, the tool flags those terms that match ones in the registry that the author has created (and, in doing so, has indicated that the author deems significant terms)
5. At each time, gives the author an opportunity to specify that the term be given some quality (for example, a different font, or a color, or a sound attached, or an image attached) to indicate its importance when the message is opened by the recipient.
6. At finish, author sends message

Where the embodiment of my invention is different than a simple spell-checker is that:
a) It uses a registry that the users define themselves with words that are of personal importance
b) A spell-checker is based on the paradigm of flagging those terms that don't match its registry. My invention flags those terms that do match.
b) The author can attach significance to the terms that are flagged. Spell-checkers only let you change/replace the flagged term.

Another existing concept that I believe might be related is the search feature in e-mail programs. The concept of search for the recipient of the e-mail is:

1. Recipient receives e-mail message

PAGE 35/36 * RCVD AT 2/27/2006 6:36:37 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/20 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:+13106418798 * DURATION (mm-ss):09-26

2. Recipient opens search tool
3. Recipient specifies significant words that he or she wants to find within the message
4. At each occurrence, recipient reads that section.

My invention extends this concept in a new way by searching through an e-mail message for any term that the user (author or recipient) has specified ahead of time as having significance or importance for them, not just searching for a single term that the user enters in the search tool, and by allowing the occurrences of terms to be flagged in some way within the e-mail itself. If the author uses an embodiment of my invention, the recipient does not have to do any searching at all--all of the important terms will be flagged with some significance (font, color, image, sound, etc.) that is readily visible to the recipient. In addition, if the recipient uses an embodiment of my invention instead of the search tool, my invention is not as tedious as the search tool. Instead of having to run the search for every term that has significance for the recipient and that he or she thinks might be in the e-mail message (for example, search on "my name", then search on "my product name", etc.), with the embodiment of my invention, the recipient sets up a registry of terms at one point in time and then only runs my invention against each e-mail message. Each occurrence is flagged (by font, color, image, sound, etc.) and the recipient can see them stand out within the e-mail message.

Detectability
The use of this invention in another e-mail product could be detected by:

1. Opening the product and create a new message
2. Type text into the body of the message
3. Go to the area of the product where the spell-checker and other textual tools are (for example, grammar tool) and see if there are any tools that you can use to go through the document and provide "significance" to terms via font change, color, images, sound, etc.
4. Go into the online help for the e-mail product and do a search on tasks like "flagging importance", "indicating importance" and see if there is any mention of such a concept in the online help for the product.

Importance to IBM
I believe that an embodiment of my invention could be added to Lotus Notes, which is an IBM product. It would save time for any user of Lotus Notes, and having the function might end up being a competitive advantage. I use Notes myself, as do my co-workers, and today we are each solving this problem manually by flagging names and terms within our messages using fonts and color. With a tool that does the same thing, we would individually save lots of time. I would imagine that users of other e-mail programs would like to have this function as well.

In addition, companies that make and market e-mail programs might want to license this patent to implement features based on it in their programs. Popular e-mail programs include Eudora, Microsoft Outlook, Netscape Messenger.

Disadvantages
The only disadvantage I can think of at this time is that it would be so easy to use that users of this invention might overdo it and make so many terms in their e-mail messages distinct that it makes the messages hard to read. However, this is a trade off that comes with the ease of use and capability of the invention (similar to when people could first add different fonts to their messages and they'd put in too many in one message).

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.
This is not implemented in a product yet.

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